Houston, William

Aug 1916, May 1917

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

The Globe.

Toronto, Canada.

August 23rd., 1916.,

Dr. R. A. Falconer,

President,

University of Toronto,

Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Falconer:-

I would like very much to see you soon, as I have a suggestion, which I deem important, to submit for your consideration. I have given much time to the matter before troubling you with it, and now I would like to confer with you on the subject. If you are to be in Toronto soon, kindly let me know; if not, I might be able to take a day off to see you at your summer home, as I am taking my holidays in odd days this year.

Respectfully yours,

J. J. Houston

Globe Office.

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August 24th, 1916.

William Houston Esq., M. A.,

"The Globe"

Toronto Ont.

Dear Mr Houston:

I expect to be back in Toronto about the 7th of September and I shall be glad to see you then on the matter to which you refer. We are so far away and hard to get at that it would be inconvenient to visit us during the holidays.

With kind regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

President.

With enclosure

Globe Wire
May 5/17

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Dear Dr Jalonen

Kindly excuse the use of a pencil, as I have not at hand pen and ink, and I want you to regard the enclosed memorandum as in the very strictest sense of the phrase, "private and confidential", until I can more fully explain the contents proposals. Pending the completion of your work on the Estimates, I do not wish to apply for a time consuming interview, but, in the light of my past explanations, you will doubtless grasp the essence and details of the scheme I submit for your

Consideration. I shall not mention the matter to any member of the Board of Governors till after you and I have discussed it in private. Time, however, is of the essence of the whole proposal, as you may easily see for yourself. If it is to be adopted at all it should be adopted then recess, and its adoption would affect your estimates of the department of History for the coming academic

Dear

Yours truly

Wm Houston

Memorandum
re
Chair of Institutional History.

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1. I am at work by fits and starts on a revision and enlargement of my collection of "Documents Illustrative of the Canadian Constitution". I have obtained the consent of Prof. Mowry and Mr Langton to announce them as my collaborators, with their names added to my own on the title page. We agree in our ideals of what the collection should contain in the way of texts annotations, and aids to the better comprehension of the intricate relations of the documents among themselves. My time has been so much broken up for the past

two years by the excitements incident to the war, that I feel I must seek some of these three years present employment if I am to get the Edition to press within a reasonable time

2. The only way to secure a Consistency for a book prepared for students, is to have such a rearrangement of the historical work of the University, as would enable the management to utilize its institutional documents in a connected and logical sequence as e.g.

First year — Canada
Second " — United States
Third " — United Kingdom
Fourth " — British Empire and other European States.

3. The standing obstacle to the adoption hitherto of such a desirable course, leading to a degree, with History and Political Economy, has been the absence of a chair to take charge of the cognate parts of the courses in the latter two subjects. This is the necessary forward & way of introducing my suggestion.

4. If I can obtain the cordial consent of the University authorities — namely the Senate and the Governors — to pave the way for the undertaking, I will endeavor, with good prospect of success, to raise enough of capital to endow a Chair of institutional history, as for the above skeleton outline, of, say, a minimum of a hundred thousand dollars,

—enough to afford a salary
of three thousand to a professor
half of that to a lecturer, and
the remainder to provide for modern
& an institutional seminary
library. My hope and endeavor
would be to raise eventually a quarter of a
million dollars as the endowment
of what in some universities is
called a "school" of institutional
Science, for in my opinion
it would be worth little if
the work of both the lecture room
and the seminary is not kept
on lines as strictly scientific
in spirit and treatment as
possible. The "school" would be
coordinate with those of other "schools,"
one in History and one in Political

Economy, with the work so prescribed that the B.A. degree with first class honors would be given to any student in the Honor Course who takes first class standing in any one of the three, and at least second class standing in the other two.

5. I do not know the rate of interest allowed by the University on endowment funds, but if I am to undertake this campaign with any prospect of success I would need to know whether I should have the chance to inaugurate the Course of Study or the first incumbent of the chair, or head of the "School". I say this frankly and confidentially, because I am dependent on

a move too magnificent salary
here, which I wants leave
to throw up. My suggestion, therefore contemplates that I go
above into the Appropriation
for book for the press, that
I retire from journalism for
that purpose, and that my
salary as professor begin
when enough of the capital
has been subscribed to
make it reasonably pro-
bable the scheme will
prove a financial success.
If it proves a failure I shall
receive nothing for the pre-
paratory work of canvassing,
and the subscriptions will
not be carried into effect.
Hoping this will not add un-
duly to your preoccupations and that you
may be able to give me a chance to say
on the matter at a convenient early date
time

Yrs Houston